

PATENT
Atty Docket No. 10014835-1

REMARKS

A final Office Action, dated August 11, 2003, rejects pending claims 1-25. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112 (first paragraph)

Applicants respectfully traverse the examiner's rejection of claims 17-20 as containing subject matter that is not disclosed in the original specification as filed.

The examiner has apparently confused the term "secured position" with the term "open position" as those terms are shown and defined in the specification and drawings. As best shown in FIG. 9 of the present application (reproduced below), the ink reservoir 24b is mounted to an ink-reservoir mounting portion 50. The ink-reservoir mounting 50 is pivotally secured to a printhead mounting portion defining an open position for these two structures are pivoted away from each other to reveal the printheads 32d, and an engaged position (shown in dashed lines in FIG. 9) in which the ink reservoir is in fluid communication with the printhead.

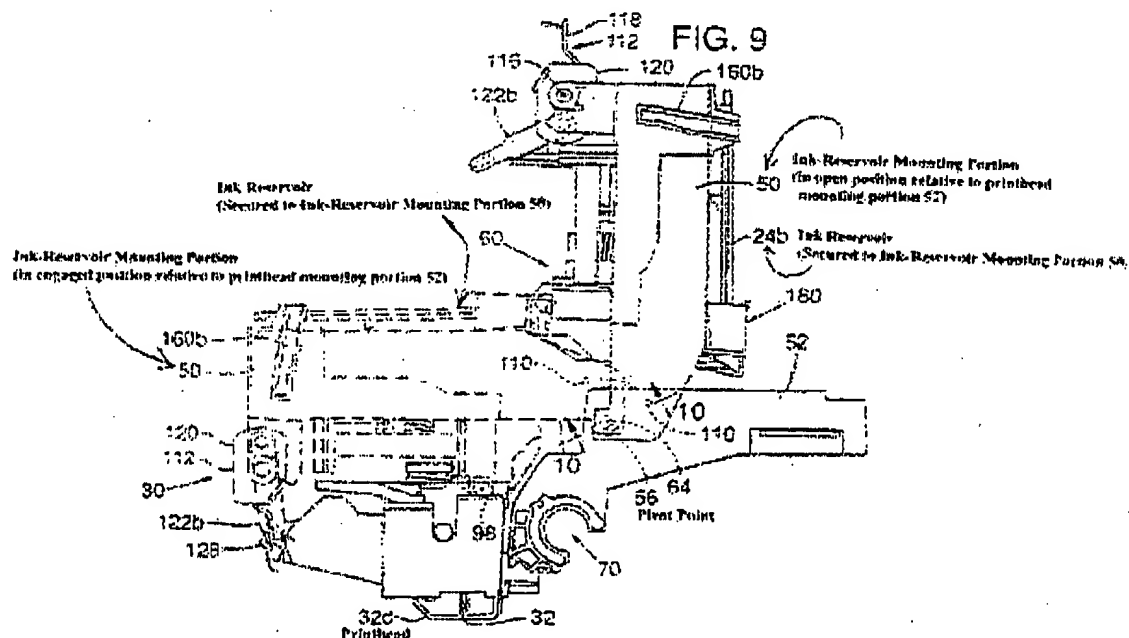


FIG. 9 of present application (annotated)

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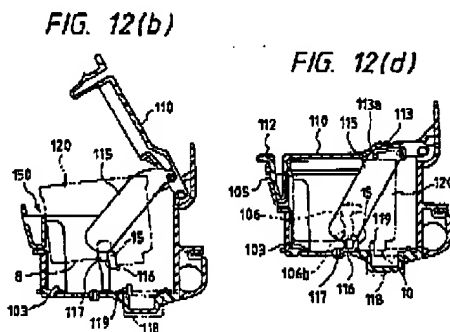
As shown in FIG. 9, the ink reservoir remains mounted to the ink-reservoir mounting portion when the ink-reservoir mounting portion is in both its engaged position and its open position. Accordingly, a user may remove and replace the printhead 32d by pivoting the ink-reservoir mounting portion 50 about pivot point 56 without removing the ink reservoir 24b from its secured position on the ink-reservoir mounting portion 50. Claims 17-20 state this basic concept of the ink reservoir remaining secured to an ink-reservoir mounting portion even with the ink reservoir mounting portion in an open position to facilitate removal of printheads from a corresponding printhead engaging position.

The examiner's statement that the "carriage is held in the open position (position when reservoir is removed) to further facilitate removal of the printhead" (final office action dated August 11, 2003, page 2, lines 14-15) suggests the examiner has misinterpreted the disclosure and claims. As disclosed in FIG. 9 and the specification (see page 6, line 16 to page 9, line 11 and figures referred to therein), the ink reservoir does not have to be removed from its ink-reservoir mounting portion to allow access to the printheads in the printhead mounting portion.

Moreover, the examiner states that "Figs. 9 and 13 do not show the ink reservoir (24a) in its 'secured position' on the ink reservoir mounting portion (50). The ink reservoir (24a) is not present in either of the figures Fig. 9 shows the presence of the carriage in the 'open position (60)' without the presence of the ink reservoir (24a)." (Final Office Action dated August 11, 2003, page 8, lines 3-6). Please note that because of the view shown in FIG. 9, ink reservoir 24b is shown and labeled (see above). As shown below, ink reservoir 24a is indeed shown in FIG. 13 in a secured position on the ink-reservoir mounting portion 50. Applicants respectfully request that the examiner review these figures in greater detail to find the elements and element numbers at issue.

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printhead without first removing the ink reservoir. (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully traverses the examiner's comment that "Miyazawa teaches accessing a printhead (118) from above the carriage without first removing an ink reservoir (Fig. 12b)." FIG. 12b of Miyazawa (reproduced below) clearly shows the ink cartridge (120) blocking access to the recording head (118) when secured within its mount and even with the carriage cover body (110) in an open position and the ink cartridge is not secured within a mount.



Figs. 12(b) and 12(d) of Miyazawa et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,250,750).

In contrast, the present invention allows easy access to the printhead when the mounting portion containing the ink reservoirs is pivoted to its open position as best shown in FIGS. 9 & 13 of the present application. In particular, claims 1, 12, and 21 include limitations that "said printhead may be accessed from above said mounting portion without removing said ink reservoir from said secured position. (claims 1 and 12, emphasis added). Similarly, claims 21 specifically requires that "said ink reservoir remains in said secured position thereby providing access to the printhead without detaching said ink reservoir from said secured position on said second mounting portion." (emphasis added).

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 12 and 21 cannot be rendered obvious or anticipated by this reference or any other references of record. Moreover, since dependent claims 2-11, 13-16, and 22-25 depend on these now allowable claims, they too should be in condition for allowance.

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Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Similarly, applicants respectfully traverse the examiner's rejection of claims 6, 7 and 24 as being rendered obvious by Miyazawa et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,250,750) in view of Oda et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,552,816). None of these references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the elements of the present claims. As previously noted, Miyazawa discloses an ink cartridge alignment and capture structure that does not allow independent access to a printhead from above the carriage without first removing an ink reservoir. Similarly, Oda discloses conventional drop-in type ink cartridge mount that does not allow an on-axis ink reservoir to remain seated in its mount while a printhead is being accessed.

Since these teachings are outright missing from these references of record, they cannot render claims 6, 7, and 24 obvious.

The examiner's continuing rejections appear to be formed by failing to recognize key structures in the present application that are clearly labeled and discussed therein (See Fig. 13, element 24a, and Fig. 9, element 24b)) while simultaneously and improperly imputing like structures to other references that are missing them. Such grounds for rejection are not supported in fact or law, and applicants' respectfully request that the examiner reconsider his rejections of this application.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that all of the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that this amendment be entered and the case passed to issuance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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